

REMARKS

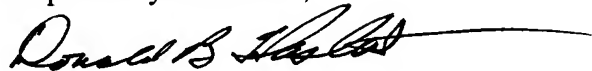
This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed January 19, 2005, and is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time to respond and the fee required therefor.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to have been enabled by the specification, in that claim 17 recited "at least one pliers stop." The Examiner stated that it is unclear how there can be more than one pliers stop. Claim 7 has been amended to change at least one pliers stop to read "a pliers stop." Inasmuch as "a" means "at least one" this amendment is not seen to change the scope of claim 7. It is conceivable that instead of a single strap extending across the opening defined at the first end of the handle recited in claim 7 the stops indicated as items 36 and 37 in the drawings could amount to two separate pieces, each extending from a respective side of the handle and each acting as a stop, in a variation of the tool not specifically disclosed as a preferred embodiment in the present application.

It is submitted that claim 7, as currently amended, is amply clear, and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 should therefore be withdrawn with respect to all of claims 7-9.

The Examiner rejected all of the claims remaining in the application under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of the predecessor patents in the chain of which this application is a part. Accordingly, this amendment is accompanied by four Terminal Disclaimers, addressing, respectively, U.S. Patent No. 5,697,114, 6,047,426, 6,430,768, and 6,718,585. It is submitted that with the entrance of these Terminal Disclaimers into this application claims 6-9 should be found allowable. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing remarks, amendments, and submissions, the Examiner is requested to reexamine the application, to allow claims 6-9, all of the claims remaining, and to pass the application on promptly to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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